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3/30/72

Mr. Robert G. Vawter, Director of Information
General Services Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Vawter,

I have just received Dr. Rhoads' letter of March 28 in which he refuses to supply me with a copy of a November 10, 1966 Bethesda Naval Medical Center report "on the material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy." Dr. Rhoads claims exemption under the medical files provision of 5 U.S.C. 552. He does not claim it is covered by the GSA-family contract and it is not itemized as part of that contract, by which it is not covered.

In his letter Dr. Rhoads admits having shown this report to another, admits "he show it to researchers" under certain conditions and says he does not furnish copies.

Under the provisions of the law I am entitled to a copy of this report, and the questio has been adjudicated (American Mail Lines, Ltd. v Gulick). If this report does, in fact, meet the provision's requirement for withholding, the government has waived any and all right to withhold by permitting any use to be made or making any use or showing it to anyon I therefore appeal the refusal of this report to me.

Should it contain anything that in any way violates anyone's privacy, although it cannot now, in my view be denied me, I will not abuse this right. On this point the record is clear in two different ways. When in the past I have been freely given documents that do violate the right of privacy, do defame, - have, whenever I have used such documents, eliminated all identifications. And the Archives has given me countless pages of private medical records, including a wide variety of personal matters, ranging from page after page on Marina Oswald's pregnancy to countless pages on homosexuality. I do not believe the government can or should have more than one standard.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg